

pattern of disrespect shown to this President in particular.

The Senate must provide the same consideration and respect for this President and his Supreme Court nominee that every other President has been given.

The President, of course, has the Constitutional authority and obligation to appoint Justices to the Supreme Court pursuant to Article II, Section 2, and he has fulfilled his duty with his nomination of Judge Garland.

And the Senate has both the authority and the obligation to provide advice and consent on the President's nominee pursuant to that same provision. Yet, the Senate has flatly refused to do its job, which is simply unacceptable.

It is clear that the Constitution requires that both the President and the Senate fulfill their respective roles in the Supreme Court nomination process in order for the Supreme Court to be able to fully perform its constitutional role.

Otherwise, what is to stop the Senate from simply grinding the Court—a co-equal branch of government—to a halt by simply refusing to consider any nominees to fill any vacancies on the Court.

There is no merit to the argument that we have to wait until we elect a new President. After all, the American people twice elected President Obama to fulfill the duties of President, including the duty to appoint Supreme Court justices.

And there is ample precedent for Presidents nominating, and the Senate confirming, Supreme Court nominees in the last year of a presidency.

For example, in 1988, during the last full year of Republican Ronald Reagan's presidency, the Democratic-controlled Senate confirmed the nomination of Justice Anthony Kennedy by President Reagan by a 97–0 vote.

Today, there are 10 months left in President Obama's term. This is more than sufficient time for the President to nominate, and for the Senate to consider and vote on his nominee.

It is vital that the Supreme Court have a full complement of justices so that the critical constitutional and legal questions before the Court can be given the full attention that they need.

While the House of Representatives does not have a formal say in the nomination process, it is important that its voice be heard on this important constitutional matter, and I urge the House to pass my resolution.

The Senate should do its job, comply with regular order, hold fair hearings on Judge Garland's nomination, and then hold an up-or-down vote on the nomination.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRIGADIER GENERAL WILMA VAUGHT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught of Pontiac, Michigan. A decorated veteran and pioneer for women, General Vaught served in the United States Air Force for 28 years and played an instrumental role in breaking down barriers for women in the military.

General Vaught began her career in 1957 with her commission as a second lieutenant at

Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Throughout her distinguished career, General Vaught served throughout the United States and abroad in a variety of roles. From 1968 to 1969, she served as a management analyst for Deputy Chief of Staff, Comptroller, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, in Saigon. She continued to excel, and in 1980, was promoted to Brigadier General. She was one of only seven female generals in the entire United States armed forces when she retired in 1985.

During her time in the United States Air Force, General Vaught received a number of commendations for her service. Her military decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, and Legion of Merit. In addition to being the first woman promoted to Brigadier General in the comptroller field, General Vaught was the first woman to deploy with an Air Force bomber wing, further breaking down barriers for women serving our country.

After her military service, General Vaught fought for recognition of women's contributions to our nation's armed forces. As the leader of the Women in Military Service to America Memorial Foundation, she played a significant role in the creation of this wonderful tribute to women at Arlington National Cemetery. This is the only major memorial that honors America's servicewomen and serves as a testament to their courage and bravery.

General Vaught is a true patriot and trailblazer for women in the military. Her distinguished service and groundbreaking accomplishments are an inspiration to all of us. It is for this reason, Mr. Speaker, that I ask my colleagues today to join me in honoring Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught for her contributions to our country. I thank her for her leadership and exemplary service to our country.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FUTURE PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL SCI- ENTISTS—ISABELLA FERRARA

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Isabella Ferrara from Katy, TX for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent the state of Texas at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

Isabella attends Cinco Ranch High School and is one of eight high school honor students selected from the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas. These students were selected as Texas delegates at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders, a program for high school students to be recognized for their hard work in school and supported to continually strive toward their aspirations of working in the medical field. The National Academy was founded by Richard Rossi and Dr. Robert Darling; Mr. Rossi currently serves as president. The Congress is being held at the Tsongas Center at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell from June 25th through the 27th. Isabella was selected by a group of educators to be a delegate for the Congress because of her dedication to her academic success and goals of pursuing a medical science. We are

proud of Isabella and all of her hard work, and know she will make Katy proud.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Isabella for being accepted into the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. Keep up the great work.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,205,597,413,856.96. We've added \$8,578,720,364,943.88 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING OFFICER LOURDES HERNANDEZ

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Officer Lourdes Hernandez, an outstanding individual in the South Florida community.

Officer Hernandez first joined the Miami-Dade Police Department in 1997. After two years in the force, she decided to take a leave of absence and enlist in the United States Army Reserves. Officer Hernandez served honorably for seven months, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her service.

Officer Hernandez returned to the Miami-Dade Police Department as part of the Intra-coastal District's Crime Suppression Team, but quickly moved to the Miami-Dade Narcotics Bureau, where she has been for the past thirteen years.

Officer Hernandez's most recent accomplishment is the completion of Miami-Dade's Special Response Team (SRT) boot camp training. This five week program is extremely mentally and physically grueling. Officer Hernandez is the only woman to have completed the updated course, which is a testament to her strength and tenacity. It is worth noting that Hernandez's determination to achieve this goal was formed nearly three years ago. Her focus and seriousness of purpose clearly go above and beyond the usual.

Officer Hernandez sets a high priority on physical and tactical training. She appreciates the dangers that officers see in the field and remains committed to keeping herself, her fellow officers, and every citizen as safe as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Officer Lourdes Hernandez for her continued service to South Florida, and the world at large, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.